

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original): Use of a shaped article containing at least one skeleton-forming agent, proteins being excepted, optionally one or more active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances, for the purpose of external application.

Claim 2 (original): Use according to Claim 1 for the purpose of external cosmetic application.

Claim 3 (original): Use according to Claim 1 for the purpose of external therapeutic application.

Claim 4 (currently amended): Use according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 3, wherein the skeleton-forming agent is at least one polysaccharide or a derivative thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended): Use according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 4, wherein the skeleton-forming agent is sodium alginate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): Use according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 5, wherein the shaped article has a volume of 0.1 cm³ to 6 cm³ and exhibits the geometrical shape of a sphere.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Use according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 6, wherein the shaped article is obtainable by freeze drying of a frozen solution or dispersion containing at least one skeleton-forming agent, proteins being excepted, optionally one or more active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances.

Claim 8 (original): Use according to Claim 7, wherein the shaped article is obtainable by means of a process that comprises the following steps:

- (a) producing a solution or suspension that contains at least one biopolymer, optionally one or more physiologically effective active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances,
- (b) pouring the solution into a mould,
- (c) freezing the solution in the mould and
- (d) freeze drying the frozen solution, forming the shaped article.

Claim 9 (currently amended): Use of the shaped articles according to ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 8, wherein external application of the shaped articles is undertaken directly by the consumer.

Claim 10 (currently amended): Use of the shaped articles according to ~~one of~~ ~~Claims~~ Claim 1 to 8, wherein the shaped article is moistened with water or with an aqueous solution of one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances, forming a gel, and is applied onto the skin or onto the hair.

Claim 11 (original): A shaped article containing:

- at least 10 wt.% of one or more skeleton-forming agents, the 1 per-cent-by-weight solution or suspension of which in water at 20 °C and at pH 6-8 has a viscosity of less than 2000 mPa.s,
- 0.000001 wt.% up to 50 wt.% of one or more active substances,
- 0.1 wt.% to 70 wt.% of one or more auxiliary substances, and also
- up to 20 wt.% water,

with the proviso that the shaped article does not comprise any proteins by way of skeleton-forming agents.

Claim 12 (original): Shaped article according to Claim 11, wherein the skeleton-forming agent is sodium alginate.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A shaped article, preferably according to Claim 11 ~~or 12~~, containing at least one skeleton-forming agent, proteins being excepted, optionally one or more active substances and also optionally one or more auxiliary substances, for the purpose of external application, which has:

- a density from 0.01 g/cm³ up to 0.8 g/cm³,
- a volume from 0.1 cm³ up to 6 cm³, and
- a diameter (maximum spacing between two points in the shaped article) of at least 6 mm.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A combination including at least one shaped article as defined in ~~one of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 13 and also at least one aqueous solution that contains one or more active substances and/or auxiliary substances, in matching spatial arrangement.